



Delaware Bicycle Council
June 4, 2003
DelDOT Administration Building
Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Don Carbaugh, Chair and New Castle County Representative
Fred Breukelman, Dept. of Public Health Representative
Danna Levy, Council on Greenways & Trails Representative
Laura Madara, DNREC Representative
Timothy Willard, Sussex County Representative
Judi Jeffers, At-Large Representative
Amy Wilburn, At-large Representative
Tim Plemmons, At-large Representative

DelDOT Support Staff Present

Joseph Cantalupo, Assistant Director, Division of Planning
Fritz Schranck, Deputy Attorney General
Wendy Bernard, Administrative Assistant

Members Absent

Janet Arns, Dept. of Education Representative
Lisa Moore, Office of Highway Safety Representative
George Heberling, DE State Police Representative
Paul Stevenson, NCC Representative

Guest

Calvin Weber, DelDOT Bridge Design

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Don welcomed Calvin Weber who is a Project Manager working in the DelDOT Bridge Design section. Mr. Weber is currently working on the Indian River Inlet Bridge Project. He was attending the meeting to get input from the DBC on possible bicycle/pedestrian paths on the proposed new bridge over the Indian River Inlet. There is a lot of bicycle/pedestrian traffic as well as high-speed vehicle traffic along the bridge and there are a few different options that could be implemented. There is a handout attached which shows the different scenarios in detail. Basically, one option is to have the bicycle and pedestrian paths separate at the intersections, letting the bicycle path continue with the traffic, but have to deal with turning traffic. The other is to keep the paths together and have the cyclists stop at the intersections. Calvin mentioned he attended a public meeting on this project a few weeks prior and several avid cyclists had issues with the intersections.

Calvin asked the Council if they had a preference that they wanted to back. Don said he would like to look into the situation further and asked when Calvin needed an answer. Calvin said the bridge was scheduled to begin construction in the fall of 2004. Calvin also mentioned that he had referenced the AASHTO standards, but they weren't much help for this particular situation.

Tim P. asked if there had been public meetings for this project yet and Calvin said there had been a few and one more was left in August. The recent one had roughly 200 people in attendance. So far, most comments had been positive.

Tim then asked what the material selected was and type of bridge. Calvin said it was a concrete arch with steel support cables with a concrete deck. Joe C. asked what kind of separation barrier there going to be. Calvin replied a 2ft concrete barrier with steel stubbing. Tim asked if wood could be used instead for aesthetic reasons, but Calvin said wood was not suitable due to crash level testing. Fritz asked if the electric lines would be hidden, but that would be too expensive. Fritz also looked at the MUTCD manual which suggested the lanes be stripped the traditional way, but Calvin said the manual doesn't really address this particular situation in relation to the high-speed vehicle traffic. Don asked who had the right of way at the intersection.

The Council said the preliminary opinion would be the plan where the bike and pedestrian path stayed together at the intersection but they would try and have a definite answer for Calvin from the Council at the August Council meeting. Calvin said if they do support that plan, he would really like the Council's support to push for that option.

Council Membership Update

Don informed the Council that Janet Ray's term was up and he expects her to be reappointed. Fred B. term had expired and he was reappointed. Lisa M. and Paul S. terms were going to expire, but they would probably be reappointed. There was a new member filling the Sussex Co. Representative position, Tim Willard. There was also a new member for the Kent County Representative position, Ali Mirzakhali which should be appointed soon. The Governor's office was still working on the COT position. Jay Kelley's term expired and the Governor's office was going to look to Joe for a suggestion. Joe asked what type of person the Council would like to see fill that position. Don suggested someone with experience in planning and perhaps engineering.

III. Old Business

Newsletter

The newsletter is out. Don would like to have another issue this fall. He asked the Council if they had any comments on the newsletter. Don had a comment that there wasn't much from DelDOT regarding new projects. Don said to start thinking about new article ideas.

Website

Again, Don commented on how well the website was doing thanks to Donna Walton from DelDOT OIT. The website was a "hot topic" on the State's website for the month of May. Don also said if anyone had any topic ideas to let him know. He asked Fritz if they

could use articles from the League of American Bicyclists or if there were copyright issues. Fritz said that a link to their website would be best that way the information stays current.

Don mentioned that Steve Spindler could break our bicycle maps into smaller, downloadable sections and asked Joe if it would be possible to let him do that. Joe said there wasn't enough money in the budget for that. Don asked if that was something OIT could do.

Budget Update

It is the end of the fiscal year and the DBC has roughly \$10,000 left. Of that, most will be used for T-shirts. Any funds left over do not carry over to the new fiscal year. Joe is trying to fund the next newsletters and any more trinkets with other money, not DBC funds.

Don reminded the Council members that any mileage is due to DelDOT by June 13th for reimbursement.

The 2004 budget for the DBC is well over what the DBC's budgets have been in the past.

Tim Willard was able to join the group at this time so he introduced himself to the Council and Don welcomed him to the Council.

News Items

DelDOT News:

Joe informed the Council what bicycle/pedestrian events DelDOT had recently participated in:

- Dover Wellness Task Force event
- SR1 Opening
- Cape Cluster Foster Family event
- Safe Kids Day (June 28th)

He mentioned an upcoming event to be held on September 13th called Pedals for Progress and wanted to know if the DBC would like to be listed as a sponsor on the advertising. The Council agreed that would be a good idea and asked what they needed to do. Joe said they needed help staffing locations from 10-1 in each county. DelDOT's Public Relations will draw up fliers and possible do a public service announcement for advertising.

Joe updated the Council on the Safe Routes to school program. It's still in the draft stages but hopefully it will only take 6 months or so to get it going.

Joe also mentioned that the Bicycle Plan would be taken up again and hopefully completed by next year.

Lastly, Joe told the Council that they bought 2 new bikes for use, one mountain bike and one stripped model to take to events to show people that you don't need expensive equipment to ride a bicycle.

New Castle County Rail/Trail

Tim informed the Council on the status of the project. The corridor passes under Rt. 295 and Rt. 13 and with the new construction plans the bridges will be taken out and filled in, which means there would be breaks in the trail. DelDOT decided the cost was too great and there were concerns about the trail passing too close to the women's prison.

So while the trail has a lot of local support it seems now to be up to the legislators to ultimately decide the fate of the trail.

Walk Across DE

Fred B. said there was good turn out for the walk, although he himself was unable to make it. Don said there was about 100-150 people in attendance. Fred thinks the Division of Health will probably sponsor the walk again next year, and Don said there was a walking club which would be doing it in the fall.

Fred also mentioned that the City's of Wilmington and Milford were awarded federal funds for a big health initiative.

HB 190

The bill is currently in the House, where it has a good chance of passing. There are some concerns regarding some aspects of the bill, such as the length of imprisonment, which make it questionable about whether it will pass the Senate or not. Don reiterated his belief that there needs to be an intermediate charge between inattentive driving and a felony charge.

IV. "Task" Updates

Bike Month

Don said there was a record turn out for the Legislators Ride with about 85 people showing up.

Effective Cycling

Don informed the Council that there was a new instructor, John Bare. The course was given to the Wilmington Riverfront security people. There was a course scheduled for the following week for the State Police and DelDOT personnel.

V. New Business

State Parks

Laura M. told the Council the state parks seasonal employees were on bikes and had had some training. There will also be more involvement from the parks on Ozone Action Days, particularly at Bellevue and Brandywine where there will be Ozone flags.

She also informed the Council that the Women in the Outdoors program was to take place the following week.

Bike Month

The next bike month will have a poster contest in area camps regarding bike safety sponsored by the White Clay Bike Club.

New Maps

Joe informed the Council that the NCC maps had been delivered and were in the process of being mailed. The Kent/Sussex maps will hopefully be ordered in August.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.